

From: D.A. Mazzella
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:24pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to express my displeasure with the Microsoft antitrust settlement proposal. I feel that the single biggest issues affecting competition are the facts that

1) Microsoft has an effective monopoly of the "office productivity suite" class of applications, web browser application and operating system (Windows)

2) they make it very difficult for other vendors to interoperate with their product (Microsoft Office), and stray from standards in "embracing and extending" them.

Potential new vendors must support the Office document formats because they are the de facto standard, but they are undocumented, and thus it is almost impossible for any potential new vendors to support them well. As a result, the consumer has little choice but to buy Office, and because it only runs on Windows, he has no choice in operating systems either.

Microsoft has forced all other web browsers into a 'nitch market' by bundling the browser with the operating system

Microsoft forces PC manufacturers to put Windows on new PC's, without the choice of alternative operating systems like Linux (Redhad, Mandrake, SuSE, etc) Solaris x86 (Sun Microsystems) or BSD (the Open BSD Group).

I feel that any effective settlement must include the following conditions:

- * Microsoft must release full documentation for the existing Office file formats;
- * Microsoft must be prohibited from introducing changes to these formats without releasing full documentation of the changes;
- * Microsoft must be release said documentation in advance of their actual support for the changes, to prevent other vendors from having to play catch-up;
- * Microsoft must participate in the development of new, open document formats, preferably based on XML and governed by an independent standards body.
- * Microsoft must open the source code to their Windows operating system, there by allowing others access into the internals for better competition.
- * Microsoft must release a fully functional version of Microsoft Office for Linux, Macintosh, Solaris and BSD

- * Microsoft must bundle the Mozilla Web Browser with the operating system
- * Microsoft must stop forcing new PC manufacturers from bundling Windows with a new PC
- * Microsoft must allow the reselling of unwanted software (the website Ebay.com closes all auctions that sell Microsoft products)

The effect of these conditions would be to allow other vendors to develop a product competitive to Microsoft products for the first time in years. This in turn would open the door to competition in many other areas.

Thank you

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